

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 21-24 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-11 having been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, Claims 1-14 and 16-20 having been canceled, Claims 15, 21 and 22 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Calleson (U.S. Patent 5,152,339); Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Calleson in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent 6,745,827); Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Calleson in view of Baldantoni (U.S. Patent 6,540,016); and Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Calleson in view of Voss et al. (U.S. Patent 5,685,366). However, Claim 20 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

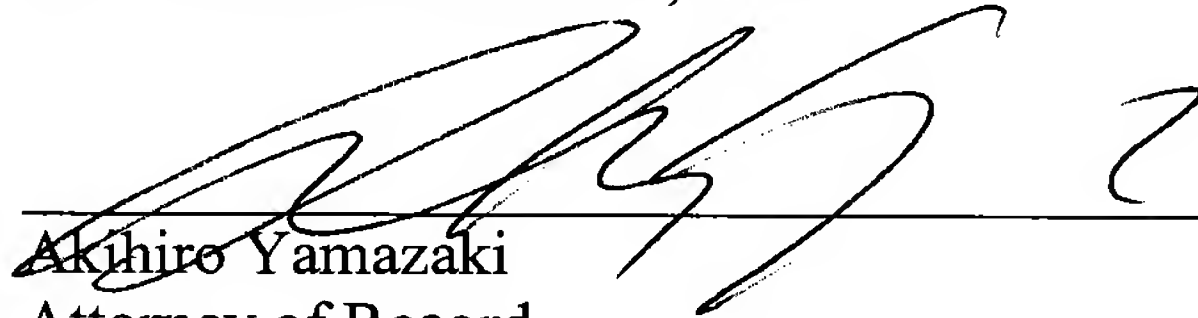
First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claim 20 includes allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in Claim 20, and consequently, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-14 and 16-20 be canceled without prejudice.

In addition, Claims 21 and 22 have been amended solely for formality, and thus no new matter is believed to be added thereby.

In light of the prior indication of allowable claims and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing amendments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to resolve remaining issues and expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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